

Remarks

1. Preliminary Matters

Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement PTO/SB/08a form was filed on August 20, 2008 listing three U.S. patent documents and/or publications and three foreign patent documents. As reflected in the Image File Wrapper, the Examiner evidently neglected to initial one of the foreign references, namely EP 1225734. Applicants request that the Examiner kindly initial this reference on the PTO/SB/08a form. With the present paper, Applicants are also providing copies of all three foreign references.

2. Status of the Claims

Applicants have amended claims 8-10 and 21-23 to improve the logical structure and clarity of each claim. Applicants have also added new claims 24 and 25, which depend from base claims 1 and 21, respectively, and each of which incorporate only matter removed from their respective base claims. No new matter has been introduced, and Applicants submit that the amended claims are substantially commensurate with the scope of the allowed claims, but encourage the Examiner to fully review the revised claims. Applicants believe that the amended claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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